

**In Verse 38, First Week of Winter, Christmas Week,** we have within us an attitude of devotion wishing to come to birth, for the Spirit of the world endows us with His own being. Slowly, throughout the attached commentary, imaginative pictures may arise from the heart, deepening one's understanding. May reverence and Christmas joy accompany us!

## Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 38 – Birth of Spirit Child

*Eloise Krivosheia*

**Verse 38** relates to Life Spirit, an as yet undeveloped spiritual member of the human being, and to Condition 6, "Feel Gratitude for everything that falls to your lot."

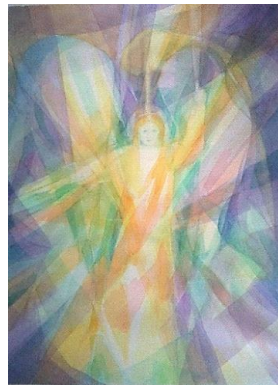
Our challenge during Advent has been to meet our earthly self with the transformative forces of the Light, the true light of Christ, so that we may be prepared for the ever renewing birth of the higher Self at Christmas. In this week each year joyously we feel this miracle anew. Our higher self, conceived in clarity of heart, now may be borne as heaven's fruit from womb of soul.

In Verse 38 we meet what may be surprising: our thoughts, our Spirit Child, once "enchanted," but now —freed? Hope, now fruitful, but which in corresponding Verse 15 could only "lame" because our higher thinking, our higher Self, then lay "enchanted" in the dreaminess of summer. It had not yet awakened; the self had not yet earned through its own efforts the needed maturing transformation.

Assuredly, as we felt the summer's radiance with warmth of heart, conception of "heaven's fruit of hope" was truly occurring; and thus in time to come, when all would be prepared in womb of soul, a further step could be attained —as even now, toward new birth of our higher self, our spirit child.

Ich fühle wie entzaubert  
Das Geisteskind im Seelenschoss;  
Es hat in Herzenshelligkeit  
Gezeugt das heil'ge Weltenwort  
Der Hoffnung Himmelsfrucht,  
Die jubelnd wächst in  
Weltenfernen  
Aus meines Wesens Gottesgrund.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



*Iris Sullivan My Higher Self*

I feel the Spirit Child  
Set free from spell in womb of soul;  
The holy cosmic Word conceived  
In clarity of heart  
The heaven-fruit of hope,  
Which joyous grows toward farthest  
worlds  
Out of my being's godly ground.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

In meeting the transforming challenges of Advent, our thinking has been lifted to higher clarity, and we have earned the right of fruitful hope, which, now awakened from its summer enchantment, can grow, rejoicing, into farthest worlds. Now the awakened soul, the archetypal Madonna, is able to give birth to the higher self. "Out of my being's godly ground" would indicate that from our new, prepared soul ground, freed from the worldly lures and traps of Lucifer-Ahriman and their minions, that we may grow toward Christ, mindful always to seek clarity in our thinking and feeling.



*Iris Sullivan*

I feel, free of enchantment,  
The spirit child in my soul's core;  
In heart-high gladness has  
The holy cosmic Word engendered  
The heavenly fruit of hope,  
Which grows rejoicing into farthest worlds  
Out of my being's godly roots.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



*Iris Sullivan*

We have prepared during these 4 weeks of Advent to heighten our conscious awareness, our experience of that higher self that we can call our "Spirit Child". Summer's experience of imaginative, somewhat dreaming life enabled the soul to feel a higher degree of cosmic reality and the I felt the weaving of the spirit enchanted in a beauteous world. The breathing out of the Earth during summer allowed the *spirit conception* to take place in the soul of the spheres. That conception, now matured in the human womb, can be birthed at Christmas, and living in our heart, may ever be renewed -ever in a higher state.

Patsy Scala's spiritual imagination sees this heavenly fruition of our hope as the deepest truth of our being. "It is the power that can change the world, and extends to the farthest reaches of the cosmos." We are "to hold in our minds and in our hearts the truth that this spirit child in the soul's womb is always within us and always ready to be birthed in every moment."

H.D. van Goudoever sees the human soul as the Madonna who bears for each person one's own *spirit fruit*: "In the consciousness soul, the birth of the 'I' becomes a common concern for all humanity. In the new phase of Christianity, each soul is called upon to become a Madonna." And imagining further, he writes:

"As at physical birth when the soul awakens to the physical world, so at spirit birth, *the soul awakens in the spiritual world*. Christmas is a birth festival in the sense that each year around this time a birth of spirit takes place anew." It is the birth of "the new Adam"—not the Adam of earth, but of higher self.

And so, on Christmas Eve we hear again the sound of golden music, for heavenly choirs continue every year their songs to the Shepherds filling our hearts with great gratitude.

As if freed from enchantment, I  
feel  
The spirit child in the soul's womb—  
In the brightness of the heart  
The holy Word of Worlds has  
produced hope's heavenly fruit—  
which, from the divine ground of my  
being,  
grows rejoicing into the farthest  
worlds.

tr. by Christopher Bamford



I feel, as free from all enchantment,  
The Spirit's Child within the womb of  
soul;  
The holy cosmic Word has borne  
In the radiance of the heart  
The heavenly fruit of hope  
Whose joy goes out to farthest  
worlds  
From the Godhead's ground of my  
being.

tr. by John B Thomson

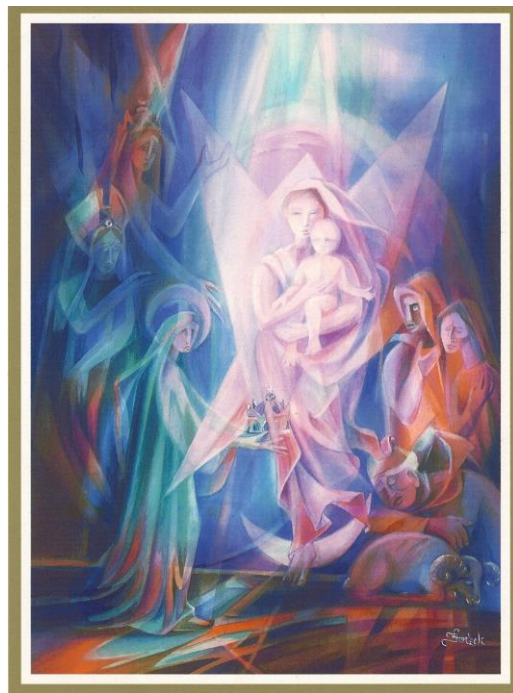
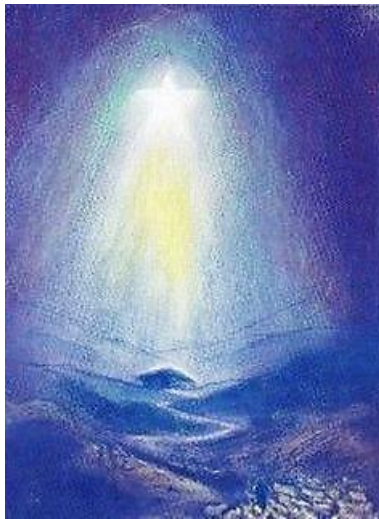
## Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 15 and 38

In July, Verse 15, Daisy Aldan translation, we see how the I felt itself "enchanted" in worldly glory— yet also strengthened from the feeling of being enfolded in all the beauties and colors of earth. We may also note how Calendar Verses 5 to 20 relate closely to the first chapter of the *Luke Gospel*. Luke 1:45 says of Mary, "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." When spiritual connections are seen and "believed", then strength is given from the spiritual world. Indeed, this spirit strength can be born anew and greater every Christmas!

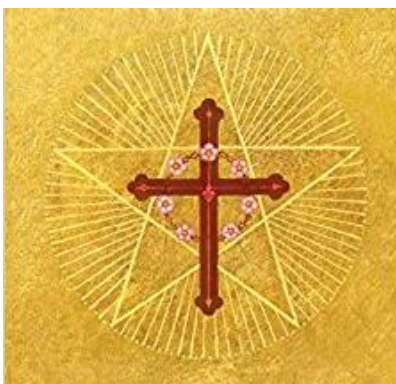
Ich fühle wie verzaubert  
Im Weltenschein des Geistes Weben:  
Es hat in Sinnesdumpfheit  
Gehüllt mein Eigenwesen,  
Zu schenken mir die Kraft,  
Die, ohnmächtig sich selbst zu geben,  
Mein Ich in seinen Schranken ist.

I feel as if enchanted  
In worldly glory, Spirit's weaving:  
It has, in senses' darkness  
Enfolded my own being,  
So it might grant me strength:  
Which, powerless to give myself  
My I" is in its narrow bounds.

Through meditating the Calendar we reach a higher consciousness each year.



Artist Leszek Forczek. Mary bringing to earth the Holy Child.  
Magi worship with understanding; Shepherds in reverent wonderment



My higher self anew each Christmas

